**Starvation death in Sonebhadra, UP**

1373. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIR9 be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 18 tribal children died recently due to starvation in Sonebhadra District of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the life of the tribal people in the State is in distress; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken by Government in collaboration with State Government to avoid such a tragedy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULASTE): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

**Pro-Poor Schemes**

1374. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that all the Southern States are more committed in supporting the pro-poor schemes than the other States, particularly the Central Government's key project, the Valmiki Ambedkar Awas Yojana (VAMBAY); and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) and (b) Valmiki Ambedkar Awas Yojana (VAMBAY) being a demand driven scheme meant for the urban poor residing in slums, the Southern States have shown keen interest and commitment by submitting the project proposals in accordance with the Scheme guidelines.

**Linkage from Metro Stations**

1375. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Metro Rail in Delhi is considered to be the safest and well managed and maintained transportation system;

(b) if so, whether Government are aware that linkages from metro stations are not properly available and the private bus operators in Delhi are not plying enough buses there; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to request the Delhi Adminsitration to improve the linkages from metro stations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) The Shahdara-Trinagar section of Line 1 of the Delhi Mass Rapid Transit System, i.e. Metro Rail is in operation at present and has been certified by the Commissioner of Railway Safety as meeting the prescribed standards of safety.

(b) and (c) Enough feeder bus services are available to connect all Delhi Metro Rail stations from Shahdara toTrinagar. Further action under the applicable statutory provisions has also been initiated by the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi.

**Encroachment in Durga Mandir Complex**

1376. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK: Will the MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to refer to in reply to Unstarred question 3628 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 29th April, 2002 and state:

(a) whether MCD has taken permission to remove the encroachment in the complex of Durga Mandir at T Block, Raghubir Nagar;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor and if so, by when the encroachment would be removed;

(c) whether Government are aware that recently Executive Committee of the said Durga Mandir has started constructions on the encroached land; and

(d) if so, the steps contemplated in this regard?